

THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVIII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 1908.

No. 8

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DEATHS.

On August 12th, at Hamburg, DOROTHY ANNA GOETZ, aged 8 months. [1193]
On August 15th, at Petersfield Hants, EDITH FANNY, wife of the late ARTHUR ANDERSON. [1205]
On August 17th, at the Peak Hospital, of heart failure, KURT BLOCK, aged 27 years. Deeply regretted. [1194]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Inspector A. Langley, on behalf of Mrs. Percy Langley, her brother and family, desires to thank their numerous friends for sympathy shown in their recent bereavement. [1182]

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of July 24th arrived per the s.s. *Malta* on Wednesday, the 19th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The Pakuan Railway Co. Ltd. (Siam) propose to pay a dividend of 7 per cent. for the half year.

The Spanish Consul at Shanghai has notified that he has withdrawn the protection granted to some sixty or seventy Chinese registered at the Spanish Consulate at Amoy.

Mr. Matsui, Councillor of the Japanese Embassy at Washington, has notified Mr. Bacon that the Emperor has ratified the Arbitration Treaty between Japan and the United States.

An advertisement of the Hongkong Jockey Club invites members intending to subscribe for griffins for the next annual race meeting to communicate with Mr. Hough, the clerk of the Course.

In a Government Gazette Extraordinary, issued on the 19th inst., His Excellency the Governor has proclaimed Amoy to be a port at which an infectious or contagious disease prevails.

Mr. J. O. P. Bland, of the London and Chinese Corporation, is on his way to London, travelling via Siberia.

A sum of 5000 pesos has been guaranteed in Manila for bringing out from America a baseball team to play a series of ten games.

A Tokyo telegram to the *Daily Press* dated August 7th, states that the Vladivostock Court has ordered the release of the crew of the "Miye Maru," and their property; also of an American citizen named White.

Some two million feet of Canadian timber has been ordered for the construction of railways in China. It is hoped that this may prove to be the beginning of a steadily growing demand for Canadian timber through the Pacific seaports.

Three more men concerned in the attempt to poison the troops at Hanoi were publicly executed on the 7th inst at 6 a.m. One of the men, the cook, before he was taken from the prison declared that the brigadier (who was condemned with him) was the instigator of the plot.

A Tokyo telegram to the *Daily Press* states that in Japan the *New York Herald's* campaign to promote an alliance between America and China is ridiculed, but it is generally regarded as unfortunate that this turn in affairs should be taken on the eve of the visit of the American Fleet to the Orient.

His Highness Pu Lun, Prince of the Fourth Order and President of the Imperial Assembly, has been appointed to receive the U. S. Pacific Fleet on behalf of the Chinese Government. His Highness was Imperial Commissioner to the St. Louis Exposition in 1904 and lately Special Commissioner to return the visit of Prince Fushima to the Peking Court.

Reports from Ichang to August 1st state that the water was falling rapidly, and the "Tungting" which reached Hankow on the 2nd inst. reported finding only 14' 6" water in the upper river. This is the lowest watermark registered this time of the year for 31 years. In several places 8ft were to be found, and the river is unnavigable from Yochow and Ichang.

Surprises are about to commence, says a Hanoi contemporary with reference to the investigations of the Criminal Commission regarding the recent plot to poison the troops. A "sensational arrest" has been made, and it is stated that the Annamites are beginning to understand that nothing will stop the course of Justice, and the "highest heads" will fall, if necessary.

The exports of opium from Bombay to China during the past ten financial years have been very irregular. In the two years 1898 to 1900, about 25 thousand chests were exported, and in 1901 about 24 thousand. Then there occurred a sudden fall to 17½ thousand in 1901. There then occurred a rise to 25 thousand again in 1904, after which the number fell to 13 thousand in 1906-7, rising again to 17 thousand in 1907-8. The increase during 1907-8, appeared to be due to the cheaper prices prevailing, but with a view to restrict gradually the importation of Indian opium into China it has been agreed between the English, Indian and Chinese Governments that the quantity of Malwa opium during the calendar year 1908, shall not exceed 15,000 chests. The total revenue in 1907-8 was 93½ lakhs against 33 lakhs in 1906-7.

Mr. Hobhouse, replying in a printed statement to a question by Mr. Brigg, M.P., stated that the total of the Peking indemnity payable by China was fixed at Tls. 450,000,000, of which the British share was Tls. 50,020,545—about £5,250,000. Under the terms of the Protocol the indemnity is to be paid by annuities extending over the period to 1940. These annuities are being paid punctually and fully, and no part of the sum is overdue.

Mr. Churchill, in reply to a question in the House of Commons by the Earl of Ronaldshay, supplied the following statement of the total net tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared at the six principal shipping ports of the world in 1906:

Antwerp	21,876,118
Hamburg	20,120,198
Hongkong	19,833,666
London	19,407,942
New York	20,390,953
Rotterdam	15,372,490

The above figures do not include vessels which have been entered or cleared from or to places abroad at some other port in the respective countries on the same voyage. If these duplicate entries or clearances could be included the figures for London would probably be increased to a greater extent than those for the other ports mentioned.

A fire broke out between 9 and 10 p.m. on Sunday night the 2nd inst. in the German Legation Quarters, Peking. It started in the Gun Shed of the German Barracks which is known as "Waldsee Kaserne." At the time of the fire there were six guns with ammunition carts in the shed, and so quickly did the fire spread that it was impossible to remove them, only one gun, and one ammunition cart being got out. A certain amount of ammunition was also stored in this shed, of which only twelve shrapnel were removed; it was impossible to remove any more. About 10.30 the remaining shrapnel and the small arms cartridges exploded with a tremendous explosion, casting destruction everywhere. There were fears that the fire would gain to the large magazine, but fortunately this was averted by the hard work of the Austro-Hungarian Blue Jackets. All available assistance was sent by the Legations and Chinese Authorities. The German soldiers worked like slaves in the face of extreme danger and were ably backed up by the French Guard. These guards suffered most by the explosion. In spite of the united forces the fire spread to the stables and canteen completely burning them out. By 1 a.m. the fire was under control, but it was between 5 and 6 a.m. before the fire was finally put out. Splendid order was maintained, the lack of water told badly against fighting the fire effectively. For the Detachments sent from the other Legation Guards, nothing but praise for their hard and willing work was heard. The new building of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank suffered considerably from the explosion and heat. The explosion broke all the windows and hurled great burning beams upon the roof, these were quickly removed, without any further damage. The German Detachment had two killed, six badly wounded and twenty slightly wounded. The French Detachment had two killed and eight men wounded. In all forty-seven patients were treated at the Hospitals. The Doctors of all the Legations attended and did all in their power to relieve the sufferers.

TURKISH INTERESTS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, August 17th.)

At one time in the history of China the Turks were a power in the land, but in the Tang Dynasty, A.D., 618-907, which was contemporaneous with the age of ALFRED THE GREAT in England, the power of the Turks in China was completely destroyed and much of the territory conquered by them in Central Asia was regained. Though there are now very few Turks in China the amount of attention paid in diplomatic circles in Europe to the recent announcement of the assumption by Germany of the protection of Turkish subjects in China shows it to possess a very special significance. Dr. MORRISON in a telegram to the *Times* last month told his readers that Turkey, besides having a considerable number of subjects employed on the Yunnan and other railways, has two interests in China—opium and religion. It is the religious interest which has excited public attention in Europe—or rather the political aspect of a religious movement. That endeavours have been made from time to time to awaken interest in Pan-Islamism in China by attempts to stimulate recognition of the Sultan as the spiritual ruler of the Moslems is known to most readers. Three times within the last twenty years has Turkey sent Missions to China, but at least two of them were ill-provided with funds and did not succeed in drawing much public attention to themselves except on that account. The first Mission came out on a Turkish frigate which foundered in a storm near Kobe in 1890 with great loss of life. It has been remarked in Paris that ABDUL HAMID has latterly manifested special interest in China, and it is recalled that two years ago he received with special honours a Chinese Musulman, a Mufti, who had come all the way from Peking to pay homage to the KHALIF. Last year the SULTAN sent to Peking a mission comprising two theologians and an inspector of primary schools. The latter is at present travelling in China with a passport from the French Legation. Of the theologians, one is said to be looked upon as a Pan-Islamic agent. Dr. MORRISON makes the statement that imams from Turkey are constantly moving among the Mohammedan communities of Western China, and that some 200 Chinese annually make a pilgrimage to Mecca. The intercourse between the two countries, he says, is much greater than is generally suspected.

There is no definite information in the published statements as to the reason for this transfer of the protection of Turkish subjects in China from France to Germany. Up to the time the latest mail left Europe the Ottoman Government had not even communicated to the French Foreign Office any notice of the transfer. Having regard to the fact that the number of Ottoman subjects in China is not large and the individual Turks not persons of any particular importance, the incident, the Paris correspondent of the *Times* says, is considered "decidedly significant." "It is looked upon as one more illustration of the sort of tutelage Germany is gradually endeavouring to acquire over the whole Musulman world—a tendency which deserves the careful consideration of all States having Mohammedan subjects. This tendency is served by the constant desire of ABDUL HAMID to confirm his own influence and power as KHALIF over the most distant branches of Islam." The Paris *Journal* in referring to the subject says that there are some 80 million Musulmans in China and that their numbers

are constantly increasing. It further tells its readers that the progress of Mahomedanism in China is one of the most important factors in its evolution. What a force, exclaims the *Journal*, to be placed at the service of the Power whose prestige will be enhanced by the delegation of the KHALIF, the head of Islam! It is not the first time, it adds, that Germany has shown with what skill she takes advantage of great moral influences for promoting the most material of policies.

China has, doubtless, been kept well informed by its Legation in Paris of the views expressed on the subject, and it is interesting to note that in replying to the German notification, the Chinese Government said that while they were willing to receive communications from Turkey through the German Legation, they could not relinquish to Germany the rights of protection in China over the subjects of a Power which has no treaty with China. By implication China at the same time denies to France any right of protection over Turkish subjects, and the Chinese Government itself avoids responsibility by declaring its intention to decline in future to issue passports or to grant ex-territorial rights to subjects of a Power like Turkey, within whose borders the subjects of other nations retain extraterritorial privileges. It looks therefore as if the Chinese Government had been considerably alarmed by what appeared at first sight to be a change of trivial significance. It is not, of course, the religious significance of the Pan-Islamic movement that would trouble China, but the political developments that may arise out of it. In view, however, of the intercourse between the two countries which has so long existed and still continues, it is difficult to see what China gains by a refusal to recognise the claim of a foreign power to afford protection to Turkish subjects in China and this refusal in itself may conceivably serve more to promote than to check the developments China seeks to prevent.

AN ABORTIVE RISING.

(Daily Press, 18th August.)

There seems good reason to believe that all organised efforts to promote a rebellion in South China are, for the time being at least, at an end. SUN YAT SEN has for years cherished the idea of a revolution in the Two Kwang provinces and it seems from the talk of one of the leaders of the recent operations in Yunnan who has sought sanctuary in Japan, that another rising on a big scale was in progress in Kwangsi and Kwangtung, the outbreaks in Yunnan being arranged merely to divert attention from the bigger movement while it was in process of organisation. But the project has not matured because the Yunnan operations were a failure. And China has to thank the French for this. A month or two ago when France made certain demands upon China for reparation for a violation of her territory by the Chinese regulars who killed men of the French Colonial troops, China replied with a suggestion that the French had allowed Tongking to become a base of operations for the revolutionary movement. There is no question that the Reformists have in violation of French laws made Tongking a *point d'appui* and an organising base, but as soon as the French authorities saw this they certainly exerted themselves to put a stop to it. Therefore the suggestion made by China that the French had given the revolutionary movement a base naturally rankled in the minds of the French. What would happen, one of

the Paris papers asks, if France had displayed benevolent neutrality towards the rebels? Our reply would be that serious trouble for both France and China would have been the result. France could not possibly give the Reformists a free hand in Tongking; that the movement has been permitted to show itself there at all has had a very bad effect on the native population who would seem to have developed a revolutionary movement of their own, directed against French domination. Revolutionary literature has been scattered broadcast among the natives in Indo-China, in Cochin-China and Annam. It is clear, as M. LANESSAN has recently remarked in the *Siecle*, that France has every interest from the point of view of the security of Indo-China to live on good and friendly terms with China, but whether the general entente which he recommends with the Chinese Government, analogous to that already concluded with Japan, would avail much when difficulties arise such as those which have occurred during the last six months, is very questionable indeed. The best security for Indo-China at present is an adequate military force, and that apparently is in the way of being supplied, for large reinforcements are coming out this year.

THE CHINESE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION.

(Daily Press, August 19th.)

We have received from the Inspectorate-General of Customs and Posts the Report on the working of the Imperial Post Office—this time not, for "the year 1907," but for the "33rd year of KUANG HSU." Mr. HIPPISLEY, the officiating Postal Secretary, explains that the delay in the publication of the report has been due to this substitution of the Chinese calendar—which had previously been followed by Inland Offices only—for the foreign calendar in the rendering of accounts and statistics at the postal establishments. Mr. HIPPISLEY goes on to say that "a system under which some offices compiled their statistics according to the Chinese year, while others followed the foreign year was obviously open to objection and the change had sooner or later to be made to meet national ideas and customs and to suit the requirements of the Chinese administration." This change would seem at first sight to be prompted more by patriotism of the "rights recovery" description, than by a sincere desire to secure uniformity of practice, for it will at once be suggested that the Inland Offices which followed the Chinese calendar in making up their accounts might have been instructed to follow the foreign calendar as the chief offices did. If the change had to be made in this case "to meet national ideas and customs" how long will it be before we hear of a similar order in regard to the preparation of the Customs Trade Reports?

This, however, is a digression from the interesting subject of the work of the Chinese Imperial Postal Administration which continues to show very striking progress. Though during the past year, according to the report, attention has been directed less to expansion than to improvement of the organisation, to facilitating inter-provincial communications by linking up the courier lines of one province with those of another, and to accelerating delivery by the establishment of courier lines working on the day-and-night system, the result of it all has been not only expansion but "unprecedented expansion." The total number of offices and agencies has been raised to 2,803, and

The Secretary reports that unprecedented development marks all branches of the work. We can form some idea of this expansion when it is stated that postal articles—letters, postcards, newspapers &c.—which had risen from 76 millions in 1905, to nearly 118 millions in 1906, showed a further increase in 1907 of 50 per cent, and totalled no less than 167 millions. The number of parcels carried have just about doubled in three years, while money orders issued, which represented a value of \$1,280,000 in 1905, and of \$2,339,000 in 1906, rose in 1907 to \$3,375,000.

South China has contributed its due proportion to this development. The South China postal division comprises the provinces of Fukien, Kwangtung, Kwangsi and Yunnan, with an estimated population of $72\frac{1}{2}$ millions, and progress in this division is represented by an increase of 155 establishments, bringing the total up to 818; while the increase in mail matter received and dispatched has been from $15\frac{1}{2}$ million articles in 1906 to 20 millions in 1907, and parcels from 288,000 to 337,000. The province of Fukien for postal purposes is divided into two districts—Foochow and Amoy—and in both districts is steady development shown. In the Foochow district the mail matter received and dispatched had increased from 2,400,000 to 2,900,000 articles, and in the Amoy district from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 million articles. The Amoy Postmaster writes: "In reviewing the work of the past year it must be admitted that rapid strides have been made in every direction. Complaints to the Head Office are almost unknown, while much satisfaction is expressed verbally by the residents of the port and letters to the same effect are frequently received from inland places. Our Changchow to Tingchow fast day-and-night courier service has proved a great success and it would not be too much to say that it vies with any courier line functioning under the same difficulties in any part of the world. The distance traversed is 640 *li* (213 miles), with six mountains and several rugged hills to be negotiated *en route*, certain parts being infested with tigers and other wild animals. Notwithstanding these obstacles, the time occupied in traversing from point to point is only 66 hours, whereas formerly mails were often as long as five weeks on the road." Coming to the Kwantung province, the Report says that progress here continues to be satisfactory. In the Swatow district 16 new establishments, and in the remainder of the province, which is administered by the Postal Commissioner stationed at Canton, 72 new establishments were opened. The increase of mail matter in the Swatow district was 900,000 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ million articles, and in the remainder of the province from $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 million articles. "The most remarkable feature of the year," says the Postal Secretary, "has been the extraordinary increase in the number of letters for local delivery, which jumped from 44 to 455 thousand. This local Chinese business is of recent growth and is a most encouraging indication that the residents in Canton city are transferring their patronage from the native postal bongs to the Government administration." Another indication in the same sense is the closing of five bongs during the year, four of which sent mails to Shanghai and coast ports and one to Hongkong and Macao, leaving nine only in the Canton city still doing business, and 34 only, against 71 in 1901, on the register for the entire Canton district. We cannot in a single article touch upon all the points of interest in this Report, and we may bring the present article to an end by an allusion

to the importance the Postal Administration attaches to "face." Everyone knows how greatly the Chinese are impressed by appearances, and a recognition of that fact has induced some of the Foreign Powers to build palatial consulates in ports where their commercial interests are not very considerable. When the Postal Administration was inaugurated considerations of economy made it necessary that cheap premises should be occupied, and in many instances these were rented in back streets or suburbs away from the busy quarters of the town. "The consequence has been that the very existence of the Post Office has often remained unknown to those who should resort to it most." It has been proved to be a great mistake and the wisdom of a change of policy has been demonstrated "not only by a rapid increase in receipts, but also by demonstrations of popular approval."

CHINESE V. FOREIGN POST OFFICES.

(*Daily Press*, August 20th.)

Yesterday we summarised and commented upon some of the principal features of the Report of the Chinese Imperial Postal Administration for the 33rd year of KWANG HSU, and to-day we desire to draw attention to the remarks the Postal Secretary has to make with regard to the relations of the Imperial Chinese Post Office with the Foreign Post Offices. These relations are inevitably not of the happiest description. The extension of the British Imperial Penny Postage scheme to the agencies in China of the Hongkong Post Office constitutes one large bone of contention. Though China is not yet a member of the Postal Union, "recognition of the Union tariff of postage forms the basis of every postal agreement China has entered into with foreign countries," and she has strong objections to letters from the United Kingdom and British Colonies coming to China on the British intra-Empire rate of one penny or 10 centimes, instead of on the Union rate of 25 centimes. "Against the extension to post offices established on Chinese soil of this non-Union rate, which is admittedly only applicable to places within the British Empire, China," says Mr. HIPPISLEY, "has, for political reasons, consistently protested, and must continue to protest as an infringement of her rights as an independent State; more especially as China appears to be the only sovereign nation to which this rate is applied. Such letters, therefore, continue to be taxed when handed to the Chinese Administration for delivery." Mr. HIPPISLEY goes on to remark that these alien post offices were originally established at Treaty ports for the convenience of the foreign merchants doing business there in the transmission of their correspondence with other countries; "but they have long ceased to exist for this object alone, and in many ways considerably increase the difficulties of the Chinese administration." What object is served by the British Postal agencies other than the convenience of the foreign merchants at the ports in which these agencies are established we do not know. When the Hongkong Government last year resolved to close its postal agency in Tientsin very strong protests were made by the foreign merchants in that Treaty port, who in order to maintain the existence of the agency got a fund together to guarantee the Hongkong Government against loss. By maintaining that agency the Colony was incurring a loss of about \$7,500 a year and the protests made in Tientsin against the decision to close the

agency seems to afford substantial proof that these agencies have not yet outlived their period of usefulness.

An annoying incident is quoted which shows that this is not the only grievance which the Administration has against the alien post offices. "It has long been the practice for the Chinese emigrants to Siam to receive and forward correspondence with their families—not in single letters, but in packages of scores or perhaps hundreds of letters clubbed together. This practice worked, however, so seriously to the detriment of the postal revenue of both China and Siam that the Administrations of the two countries found it necessary to take measures to correct it. Naturally strong opposition was aroused on the part of both the emigrants in Siam and of their families in China, appeals being made by both to their national authorities to prevent any increase in the postage. This opposition had just been successfully surmounted, and the new procedure put into operation, when the alien post offices intervened by offering to accept 'clubbed' packages to charge postage on the gross weight only, with the result that the arrangements came to be abandoned." This seems to us to be a legitimate grievance and it would be interesting to know under what rule or regulation of the Foreign Post Offices this practice is sanctioned.

Another paragraph in the Report of considerable interest to Hongkong is the following:—

"As a consequence of the procedure adopted since the Rome Convention has come into effect, the Hongkong Post Office has reduced its postage on letters from that British Colony to Shanghai from 4 cents per half-ounce to 4 cents per ounce. This change would seem to necessitate a corresponding reduction by this Administration in the postage on letters from China to Hongkong. If that be so, it is suggested that it would be politic to go a step further and to formulate the change in a reduction of postage to 2 cents on every half-ounce. To confine the reduction to 1-ounce weights would tend to perpetuate the practice of clubbing letters together, seeing that it is calculated that on an average the weight of seven of the Chinese letters sent from Hongkong does not exceed an ounce; in the North these are much heavier, weighing on the average but little short of half an ounce. To make the reduction apply equally to the half-ounce would effect an appreciable reduction in the postage on single letters, and would thus tend to remove the advantage secured by clubbing letters, especially if measures be simultaneously adopted to accelerate delivery."

Finally we have to note that as a matter of principle China has been resisting the practice of the foreign post offices of handing over to the Chinese Imperial Post Office for delivery letters originating in China which were posted at their offices franked with their stamps. As the Chinese domestic tariff is considerably lower than that of the foreign offices this practice was not likely to result in any serious diminution of Chinese postal receipts, "but it had to be resisted in principle, as an invasion of China's domestic sphere." Mr. HIPPISLEY says the French Government has already admitted the propriety of China's attitude in the matter; and he adds that negotiations are now being conducted with the Postmaster-General at Hongkong which, it is confidently anticipated, will result in a similar recognition of China's rights. We shall doubtless hear something more about all this when the Estimates come before the Legislative Council for consideration sometime next month. For the present year a reduction of about \$100,000 in the Post Office revenue was expected, and these additional handicaps, we presume, will tend still further to diminish the revenue.

MACAO HARBOUR.

(Daily Press, August 21st.)

For very nearly half a century the improvement of the harbour of Macao has been under consideration by the Government at Lisbon. Every year's delay has meant an aggravation of the cause of complaint, and now it has become absolutely imperative that dredging operations should be undertaken. The statement made by the new Governor in his first public speech in the Colony that his initial efforts would be directed to this important question is a welcome announcement alike to the community of Macao and to all mariners charged with the duty of taking ships in or out of the harbour. It will not have been forgotten, however, that many, if not every one of Senhor ROCADA's predecessors in office were most sincerely anxious to see this important work undertaken, and none more so than the last Governor. Recollection of this fact certainly does not tend to inspire confidence in the public mind that the new Governor will be able to prevail any more effectually than his predecessors against the blank wall of inaction at Lisbon, but there are good reasons for adopting a more optimistic view of the matter. If it be true, as report had it at the time, that Senhor COUTINHO resigned the Governorship of Macao as a protest against the stultification of his efforts by the authorities at Lisbon, we may gather even from the brief summary of the new Governor's speech communicated by our Macao correspondent, that this strong action has not been without effect. Evidently in his perusal of information available in Lisbon with regard to his future sphere of labour, Senhor ROCADA has been impressed by the injustice the Home Government has done to the Colony of Macao in starving public improvements and withdrawing from the Colony funds which might have been spent in the Colony to its immediate and permanent advantage and to the ultimate gain of the mother country. No doubt this matter was well discussed with the responsible officials and it will be sincerely hoped by all well-wishers of the Colony that the Lisbon authorities have at last been persuaded of this injustice. The harbour is now so silted up that the cost of dredging it will be very considerable; and Macao was never so ill able to bear that cost as she is to-day. Had the matter been taken in hand a quarter of a century ago when the Colony enforced previous appeals to Lisbon by a direct petition to the King of Portugal, the work would have cost far less than it will now. Procrastination has proved very expensive. Portuguese engineers who reported on the project warned the Government years ago that the ruin of the port was inevitable unless dredging operations were undertaken and the necessary works constructed for the regulation of the currents in the harbour. This prediction has to a large extent been fulfilled, and the longer these improvement works are delayed the worse will it be for the Colony and also for the Mother country which has up to now been able to regard it as a valuable asset to the nation.

In April and May last Drs. R. MacLean Gibson and Chan Hin Fun gave instruction at the Chinese Y.M.C.A. in first aid to the injured. An examination was held in due course when twenty-four were examined, eighteen of whom passed with creditable marks, and they have now all received certificates from the St. John's Ambulance Association. This is stated to be the first time that lessons in first aid have been given in the Chinese language.

HOLLAND AND VENEZUELA.

(Daily Press, August 21st.)

The news which we published yesterday from our London correspondent to the effect that Holland had decided to blockade Venezuelan ports was important not so much because it indicated that the fiery little republic which has caused so much trouble to other Powers of late was at length to receive a much-needed lesson, but because it proclaimed the fact that on occasion the Monroe doctrine may be suspended. It will be remembered that when President GROVER CLEVELAND, who died only a few weeks ago, restated some ten or twelve years the Monroe doctrine with an application to the circumstances of the time when Great Britain was in dispute with Venezuela, considerable irritation was aroused in Britain and feeling ran high. It was regarded as an undue interference with British interests and, however sound the doctrine might be, the fact could not be overlooked that from the point of view of the United States there might arise an occasion when it would be impugned. Fortunately that evil day has not dawned yet, and if America displays the same sound common sense as she does to-day the unhappy contingency may be long delayed.

It is well known that Venezuela has been storing up trouble with a persistence which is almost akin to madness. Not only the United States itself has broken off diplomatic relations with the Government of the country, but Great Britain, France and Holland have claims against her which demand settlement. There is something extremely ludicrous in the spectacle of this little Republic defying so many of the greater Powers of the world, and were it not so serious the world could afford to laugh at the little bantam cock which crows so loudly from its own little dirt heap. But patience has its limits, and so has the Monroe doctrine. The Dutch Minister having been expelled from Caracas, the situation between the Netherlands and Venezuela became more acute, and the natural consequence followed that Holland should take steps to avenge this insult. Satisfaction was demanded, but none being forthcoming, the Dutch decided on a naval demonstration which would doubtless bring about the desired result. The United States has declared her sympathy with punitive measures of this description, and, as an American journal remarks, "the Monroe doctrine will take a vacation from Venezuela for a time." Of course it could not well be otherwise. If the United States wished to exercise a species of protection over the whole of the new world south of her own borders she must also incur a certain amount of obligation in preserving peace and maintaining order within that sphere. On the present occasion, however, she has not shown any inclination to interfere, has not even threatened to use "the big stick" and the duty of bringing the Venezuelan Government to reason therefore fell to one or other of the Powers concerned. Holland having perhaps the greatest cause for quarrel has been forced to take severe measures and there can be little doubt that apologies will be tendered all round and that Venezuela will be allowed to continue its independent career.

It will be readily admitted that the source of all the trouble and all the international complication in that part of the world is traced to President CASTRO, who for nine years has controlled the destinies of the Republic. The government has ceased to be representative and in his hands it is a one

man power, which has not been used in the interests of the country but for his own aggrandisement. With a charming irresponsibility he quarrels with country after country, to the detriment of his own. As a Canadian newspaper sagely remarks, he is a "long distance" fighter, but probably he will become less bellicose when he finds a hostile fleet blockading his ports and the inhabitants rising in protest against the dangers and hardships to which they are exposed. Whether the force behind the protest will be sufficiently strong to remove this commanding figure from Venezuelan affairs remains to be seen, but it does not take us far into the realm of conjecture to declare that there will be little security for peace so long as he is allowed to remain in his present position. Of course no one who knows anything of the mercurial temperament of the Latin races in South America and the instability of the various governments there would hope for great reforms from a successive president and government, but conditions could not be much worse than they are under the existing régime and no improvement seems possible without a change. The Dutch demonstration will doubtless bring the President to terms and if it also indirectly brought about another revolution in Venezuela no one would be surprised. But its effect in international politics is far reaching. It shows that the Monroe doctrine has more elasticity than some European politicians, particularly British, thought and this consent on the part of the United States Government to armed intervention by a European Power on the American Continent establishes a precedent which must be regarded as of the highest importance.

PANDOM REFLECTIONS.

"Hongkong's proposals" in connection with the suppression of the Opium divans has been a topic of considerable interest this week. A correspondent a few days ago inquired in the Daily Press how the Colonial Secretary reconciled his unequivocal denial of the statement that the Government had made certain definitely specified proposals with Ruter's telegram announcing that the consideration of the "Hongkong proposals" was in abeyance pending the return of the Secretary of State for the Colonies from the Continent. Mr. May has not broken the rules of the Service by publishing in the newspapers an explanation, and as the Legislative Council which has throughout the summer been holding weekly meetings, is now adjourned *in die*, we may have to wait some time for an explanation. There need, however, be no hesitation in believing that the Governor has made some proposals, as, for instance, with regard to the date when the so-called "dans" shall be closed, and it may be that His Excellency has proposed that the Shanghai example should be followed of closing them up in batches; but that the Governor, without first giving the Legislative Council an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the claims put forward by the Opium Farmer, has made any definite proposals to the Secretary of State as to the amount to be remitted by way of compensation in the monthly payments of the Opium Farm to the Government, I, for one, do not believe. It is quite possible that His Excellency has transmitted certain proposals made by the Opium Farmer on this important phase of the question, in order to enable the Secretary of State to fully appreciate the consequences of his hasty decision, but to say that the Government has endorsed those claims without having given the Legislative Council an opportunity of discussing them is a very different matter.

At last. The iron structure which so many people—I had almost said generations—have wished to see erected on Blake Pier is about to make its appearance. For years the residents

and visitors have sweltered under the broiling sun in the lengthy intervals between the destruction of the mat roof and its reconstruction, but apparently the voice of complaint has been listened to at last and the iron shed which should have been built at first will henceforth interpose between the fierce rays of the sun and the many people who have to wait on the pier prior to embarkation, that is, if the structure be strong enough to withstand every typhoon that blows in this direction.

When are we going to get an up to date fireboat, one that will be of service on the water and get to the place in time to be of service? The present one is certainly entitled to be treated with the respect due to age, but people will wax sarcastic over its performances, and one man was heard to declare that a week's provisions ought to be taken on board before it was despatched any great distance in the harbour. Sarcasm may prick where statement fails and it may be that ways and means will be found to procure something more modern before any great disaster occurs on the water.

Excursionists to Macao had rather a bad time last Sunday. The steamer stuck on the mud at the entrance to the harbour and remained there for about five hours. It was tantalising to be so near and yet so far, and language was used on that occasion which would do credit to the dragoons who are reputed to be adepts in the art of concise and forcible expression. The fanta houses however came to the rescue of their patrons and sent out launches to bring them ashore but those who could not describe themselves as fanta players had to be content with their position on board. Prices for refreshments ruled high in consequence and one of the unfortunate declared he had to pay a dollar for a banana and a tooth pick. Probably this is exaggerated, but it is no joke to go to Macao and not get there. N.B.—This is a bull.

Among the sins of commission and omission laid to the charge of the Hongkong Government the latest is the resolution which decided that the valuation of the Colony for the year 1907-8 should be adopted as the valuation for 1908-9. The reason for this is not very apparent. No explanations have been offered for taking this course in preference to the usual assessment, and its effect will be to lessen the value of the published list. Any one with a knowledge of the conditions obtaining in the Colony during the last year or two does not need to be told that prosperity has not attended us. Business has declined, numerous merchants have had to close their doors, and the consequent effect has been felt by the population. Property is not so fully occupied as before. There are more empty houses standing on both sides of the harbour than have been seen for many a day, yet the valuation of the Colony is increased by something like \$10,000 according to the latest assessment. I am afraid that the advance is more apparent than real, and when we come to raise money for necessities it will be found that our position is not so good as it was hoped.

That was an admirable suggestion made by a correspondent in the *Daily Press* a few days ago for the formation of an organisation which would provide facilities for rescue work on the harbour front during typhoon or other storms, and I hope the suggestion will not be allowed to pass without efforts being made to follow it up with something more definite. Many years ago a similar organisation existed in the Colony. It was known as the Hongkong Humane Society and had three stations, east, central, and west, the east at Hongkong Pier and Gow-down, the central at Duddell Street, and the west at the Sailors Home. Looking up a "Chronicle and Directory" for 1878, I noticed the names of the Committee and officials but none of them are known to the present generation. One of the promoters was, I believe, Mr. J. Emmanuel, at that time reporter on the *Daily Press*.

Nobody in Hongkong I am sure, would like to be regarded as wanting in loyalty or respect for the King, but incidents do sometimes—though happily very rarely—occur in Hongkong which show a deplorable forgetfulness of

the respect which is due to His Majesty's representative in the Colony. I am told that H. E. the Governor, who is now in residence at Mountain Lodge, was awaiting the arrival of the car at the lower tram station after the polo match, but when it came in there was the usual eager rush for seats which occurs between seven and eight o'clock at this season of the year—and His Excellency was left standing on the platform to await the arrival of the next! It is a pity that someone in authority was not at the station to teach the occupants of the front seat a lesson which was obviously much needed.

We are now in the dog days, and not having the sea serpent or the big gooseberry to discuss like the privileged people at home we take up one or other of the recurring themes peculiar to Hongkong and once more exercise our intellects over it. Some folks might be sarcastic and remark that we don't possess any intellect, but as the Scotch say "we'll let that flee stick to the wall." At present it looks as if the subsidiary coinage stood a good chance of being revived. It has been referred to at one company meeting already and will very likely be mentioned at others. But what good can be done? The subject has already been seriously discussed by men who have the best of reasons for trying to find a solution but yet we are no forrader. Who shall deliver us? It looks as if, like the poor, it will always be with us. We may talk about it for a little. Then we get tired of hearing so many speeches and reading so many columns about the wretched thing that we drop it and go and play golf or tennis or do something where we can knock something. After all there is a great deal of satisfaction in hitting a ball.

RODRICK RANDOM

THE CULTIVATION OF NATIVE OPIUM.

The following extracts which are taken from outport correspondence in the *N. C. Daily News* form interesting contributions to the discussion of the opium question:—

From CHENGTU (Szechuan) July 15—The New Viceroy, Chao Erh-sen, took over the seals on June 16. Though no definite action has been outlined, there is throughout the Chengtu plains a feeling that the opium question will have a prominent place in the new administration. The opium bulb north and west of Chengtu, though not less in area, yielded forty to fifty per cent less than last year, but as the prices have advanced at the same rate the loss to growers has not been as great as expected. The rising prices, however, may be more effective in its prohibition than the numerous proclamations that have turned out so far to be largely empty words. Both plains and hills in this part of Szechuan promise an unusual crop. Thus, though the tael exchanges for 200 to 300 more cash than formerly, prices of fool stuff remain about the same.

TSAUCHOW (Kansu) July 15—The year opened in expectation on the part of the Chinese as to what was going to be done by the officials in the way of regulating the opium trade. A proclamation soon made its appearance, stating that the tax on the land, at a slight advance on former years, would be collected (it was remitted in 1907). This did not stop the sowing of seed, perhaps a little less in some parts and decidedly more in other districts.

In the early months of the year there was promise of a splendid gathering of the drug, but continual dry weather in the fourth and fifth months stopped the growth of the plant and this resulted in a very small ingathering. In spite of this, the price rules very low, only some fifteen cents an ounce for the raw drug. The low price is accounted for by the non-appearance of the buyers who used to flock into the province from the neighbouring provinces, whilst the Hankow merchants, who bring up foreign cloth, etc., used to go back laden with opium. Now the opium seems to be consumed for the most part locally, as there is no outlet. There is no hindrance to the smoking of the drug and rich and poor go on as of yore.

An official was appointed in 1907 to a new office, Tu-yoh-chu, and all opium was ordered to be sold (wholesale) under his eye. He is assisted by a few police and frequently illicit dealers are arrested.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, August 17th.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURIS DICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

AN INTERESTING APPLICATION.

Mr. B. F. C. Master of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, representing the trustee in the bankruptcy of A. H. Rennie deceased, applied for directions with regard to the payment of certain costs incurred before the estate was actually in bankruptcy. The application was to pay certain costs incurred by Mrs. A. H. Rennie to Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master before the estate actually went into bankruptcy. There was an affidavit filed by the trustee setting forth the facts desired by his Lordship. Certain actions were commenced immediately after Mr. Rennie's death and costs were incurred in order to protect the estate.

The Chief Justice—Can you give any authority?

Mr. Master—The application partakes of the nature of an application for directions. Your Lordship has power to give directions to a trustee under the Bankruptcy Ordinance.

The Chief Justice—I don't see why you call it directions.

Mr. Master—It is directions that we may pay costs. There is no committee of inspection, and where there is no such committee the trustee can apply to the court to obtain the consent which the committee could give.

The Chief Justice—Can you mention a similar case?

Mr. Master—I don't know a similar case. It is an extraordinary case. Undoubtedly your Lordship has power to give directions to a trustee to make certain payments.

The Chief Justice—The actions were brought against Mrs. Rennie as executrix?

Mr. Master—Yes. No one but the Chartered Bank got any priority.

The Chief Justice—It seems to me an important principle is involved, though I can see it seems to be right.

Mr. Master—The costs had to be incurred otherwise certain persons might have got priority. The actions had to be defended.

The Chief Justice—I think I had better have a formal report from the trustee.

RECEIVING ORDER RESCINDED.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens applied to have the receiving order, re L. C. Logan rescinded. Since his previous application a few weeks ago there was now sufficient money in the hands of the Official Trustee to meet the claims of those who did not consent to withdraw, so the bankruptcy was really at an end.

His Lordship granted the application.

ALLIED FRAUDULENT PREFERENCE.

Re Li King Shek a motion was presented that the transfer by Li King Shek the property of the Kwong Yik Wo firm, of 14,000 bags of flour in favour of Chai Wai Chi was a fraudulent preference as against the other creditors of the debtor, and further that Chai Kee was not a bonafide purchaser of the bags of flour from Chai Wai Chi.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Holborrow of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon appeared on behalf of Mr. G. H. Wakeman, Official Receiver, in support of the motion, which was opposed by Mr. Slade, instructed by Mr. Beavis of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist.

Mr. Pollock having read the motion.

Mr. Slade said the motion against Chai Kee ought to be dismissed. The transaction was valid until it was set aside.

The Chief Justice remarked that the motion ought to be withdrawn against both parties.

Mr. Pollock submitted that the motion was not premature. There were serious objections to putting the parties through a preliminary examination, and he argued that the motion was in order.

Evidence was called, and the hearing adjourned.

Tuesday, August 18th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED MURDER.

Sheung Tsz Hing was arraigned on three counts charging him with cutting and wounding, attempting to do grievous bodily harm and with attempted murder. The Attorney-General (Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K.C.), instructed by Mr. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, who was assisted by Mr. Dixon from the office of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, appeared in support of the prosecution, while prisoner was defended by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Sergeant of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist.

The jury was empanelled as under: Messrs. J. M. Ramsay, E. J. Da Silva Loureiro, E. Luhring, C. A. More, W. F. Brewer, F. Pestonji, J. J. Stubbings.

The Attorney-General, in opening, stated that the prosecutor was manager of the Po Cun firm, 127 Jervois Street, in which firm prisoner had formerly been employed, but had been dismissed in May last on suspicion of having stolen some money. On the 25th June he returned to the shop and asked to be reinstated, but this the manager declined to do. However, he allowed him to sleep on the premises, at the same time giving notice that prisoner was not to be allowed near the counter. This annoyed prisoner who declared to another man that he would get the Po Cun into trouble next day. Everybody in the place went to bed about 11 o'clock and above five in the morning the prosecutor was awakened by a blow on the face, and on looking up saw the prisoner standing over him with a chopper in his hand. Prisoner dealt him a second blow at which the manager called out "Save life" and the accountant came downstairs. As he approached he asked prisoner what was the matter and he replied "nothing much," following up this remark with assaulting the accountant and inflicting several severe wounds upon him. The other men came to their assistance and prisoner fled. He was pursued and, finding it difficult to elude those who were after him, he jumped into the water. He was rescued by a sampan man and handed over to the police. His defence was that he had been assaulted by both men.

Evidence was called, and the case adjourned.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

AN ECHO OF THE BOXER TROUBLES.

A case of unusual importance was opened in which the Imperial Bank of China, which formerly had an office in Hongkong, were the plaintiffs, and Leung Shui Kong was the defendant. The sum involved was particularly large, amounting to well over \$300,000. The plaintiffs claimed \$346,045.65 as money due and compound interest at a rate of eight per cent at half yearly rates upon the various items comprising the claim.

The Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the plaintiffs, and defendant was represented by Mr. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett, of Messrs. Bruton and Hett.

The statement of claim was to the effect that plaintiffs had been carrying on business in Tientsin, as well as at other places, since 1897, and the defendant was compradore to the Pacific Railway Company and resided in Glenealy, Road, Hongkong. In consideration of the defendant having given his written guarantee to the plaintiffs in August 1897 to the plaintiffs that he would be responsible for the proper performance by Leung King Wo of his duties as manager of the plaintiff's office at Tientsin and for the payment of any sums to the plaintiffs which might be due to them by the said Leung King Wo, they appointed him the manager of their branch at Tientsin from August 1897 till June 1900, when the outbreak of the Boxer trouble compelled a temporary cessation of the business there. Leung King Wo, however, died at Shanghai before the plaintiffs' business could be resumed, and it was subsequently ascertained that prior to his

death he had appropriated to his own use, or lost, or become secretly indebted to the plaintiffs in the sum of \$346,045.65, money drawn from the head office at Shanghai for the purpose of being used as capital for the Tientsin branch but subsequently appropriated.

The defence was a denial of any guarantee given by defendant to plaintiffs in consideration of their employing his brother, and a refusal to admit that Leung King Wo had become indebted to the plaintiffs while he was in their employ. The plaintiffs were not entitled under the guarantee to recover from the defendant any sum whatever.

Mr. Pollock, in his opening statement, said that Leung King Wo, now dead, brother of the defendant, had been appointed in August, 1897, sole manager of the plaintiff's branch at Tientsin in a position which he held until June, 1900, when the Boxer trouble broke out. In consequence of this Leung King Wo and his staff had to stop business. Leung King Wo left Tientsin and shortly afterwards became ill and died in the following month of August, and prior to the resumption of business in Tientsin. Before going into what was discovered by the bank after his death, counsel thought it advisable to point out a few facts in connection with the appointment of the deceased manager. Perhaps the most important was that the Bank required from Leung King Wo some security, and the defendant entered into a guarantee bond. Another circumstance worthy of mention was that before he proceeded to Tientsin Leung King Wo was handed over a sum of 50,000 Shanghai taels to be used as working capital in the branch at Tientsin. There could be no doubt that he received the money as it figured in the accounts. From the returns which he furnished it appeared that there was a slight profit on the working of the branch and so this sum should naturally have remained intact at the time of the Boxer trouble. Another fact which should not be overlooked was that before he went to Tientsin he received certain chops to be used in the conduct of the business of the Bank. These were the name of the Bank in Chinese characters. Leung King Wo, however, had another set made after he went there, bearing the same characters, and the suggestion was that he used these for his private purpose, and for transaction of business which was not included in the returns to the head office at Shanghai. Subsequent to the death of the manager the books were examined. It was found that two sets of books had been kept—one called the Bank account books, on which the returns to the head office had been made, and the other called the secret account books dealing with transactions not to be reported to the head office. Counsel then entered into the explanation of the various items in detail, after which evidence taken on commission was read.

The hearing was adjourned.

Wednesday, August 19th.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED MURDER.

The hearing of the charges against Sheung Tsz Hing for attempt to murder, and attempt to do grievous bodily harm was concluded. Sir Henry Berkeley for the defence sought to show that the defendant was attacked by the manager of the shop and the accountant, who wished to get rid of him and that he wounded them in self-defence.

The jury after a short absence returned a verdict of guilty on the third count, intent to do grievous bodily harm, and his Lordship sentenced him to five years' penal servitude.

FORGERY.

Cheung Kai, alias Cheung Kam Sing, was indicted on three charges, of forgery, offering and uttering a forged document, and obtaining money on a forged document. The Attorney-General (Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K.C.), instructed by Mr. Dennis, from the Crown Solicitor's office, appeared to prosecute, prisoner being undefended.

The following jury was empanelled: Messrs. T. W. Robertson, W. L. Leask, A. H.

Mahomed, J. Topping, T. Young, G. H. Saunders, P. A. A. Kuan.

The Attorney-General said the prisoner was at one time employed on the steamer "Minnesota." He was known to the prosecutor Wong Chui Wo, a money changer in Wing Lok Street, and on April 14th he called at prosecutor's shop and said the Tung Kui firm wanted to borrow \$1,200. Prosecutor said he did not know the firm, but if prisoner said the firm was satisfactory he would advance the money. Two days later he went to the Tung Kui and saw a man named Kwok Mo Kwei, whom prisoner said was the firm's compradore. Negotiations took place, and the prosecutor drew up a promissory note and handed it to the prisoner who signed it and Kwok Mo Kwei chopped it. The money was handed over to prisoner. Subsequently prosecutor went to the shop and asked for Kwok Mo Kwei but was told he was not there. He then demanded payment of his money but was refused. On July 4th he met prisoner in the Central Market and on asking him for his money prisoner ran away but was caught and taken into custody. The chop was a forgery and the whereabouts of the alleged compradore could not be traced.

Evidence was called. The principal of the Tung-Kui firm, a Frenchman, denied all knowledge of the transaction, and declared he had never before seen the document produced. Prisoner called no witness but stated he could not understand why prosecutor should have lent him \$1,200.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty on all three counts and recommended him to leniency as it was probable he was a tool of the other man and probably got little or nothing out of the transaction.

His Lordship passed sentence of four years' imprisonment.

Thursday, 20th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ, (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CONSENTED TO JUDGMENT.

In the action by Tang Lin against Wo Hop Tung Kee for \$413 balance due on a promissory note, Mr. Morrell, who appeared for defendant, consented to judgment, pending an application for a receiving order as the debtor had filed his petition in bankruptcy.

ALLEGED FALSE DECLARATION.

The trial of Lam Kiu, a Chinese woman, on a charge of making a false declaration before the Supreme Court, was opened before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on August 20th, when Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared to prosecute.

Li Hon Ma, chief interpreter at the Supreme Court, said it was part of his duty to fill up papers re the administration of estates under a small sum. The exhibits produced were in his handwriting. He first saw the petitioner at the Registry, and after being told what he wanted took him to see the Registrar, Mr. Seth, who directed witness to fill up the necessary papers. The information for the petition, witness obtained from the petitioner, and the declaration from a woman, but he could not say whether defendant was the declarant. Witness explained to the woman why the declaration was required, and she appeared to thoroughly understand what was said. After the papers were filed up they were handed to Mr. Mackie to interpret so that there should be no mistake.

His Worship—Is it part of your duty to certify that you believe certain documents to be true?

Witness—No, and this is the first I remember having signed, saying I believed the contents to be true.

Further evidence was heard, and the case adjourned.

With regard to Sven Hedin it is suggested to account for the continued absence of all news that he may have turned north-eastwards in his journey to Khotan and have made for Western China. In that case the first news of him may come from Peking.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Aug. 18th at the Board Room. Mr. C. McI. Messer (president), presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, (Vice-President), Hon. Mr. E. A. Irving, (Registrar-General), Messrs. A. Shelton Hooper, H. A. W. Slade, Lau Chu Pak, Dr. Pearse, (Medical Officer of Health), and the following officials: Dr. Macfarlane, (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), Lieut.-Colonel Reid, R.A.M.C., and A. Gibson, (Secretary).

HOUR OF MEETING.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER asked permission to move the suspension of the standing orders in order to propose a resolution which he did not think would rouse any controversy and which he thought might be taken that day, instead of giving notice. The motion was that the hour of meeting should be changed from 4.15 to 3.45. That would enable members who wished to go in for recreation to get away by five o'clock. He had consulted all the unofficial members with the exception of Mr. Fung Wa Chun, and they were all agreeable.

The official members having signified their approval, the motion was unanimously carried.

AMENDMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE BYE-LAWS.

Correspondence was submitted to the Board relative to the amendment of the bye-laws for (1) disinfection of infected premises; (2) prevention or mitigation of epidemic, endemic or contagious disease; (3) notification of infectious disease; (4) removal of patients.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK minuted—It appears that a new set of amendments is now submitted independently of the recommendation of the sub-committee. I should like to have a comparative statement drawn up showing the amendments proposed by the Head of the Sanitary Department side by side with those recommended by the sub-committee. As things are at present, it is impossible for members to compare thoroughly and carefully the merits of the two. As these by-laws are so important, I suggest that when the comparative statement has been drawn up, the whole thing should be referred back to the sub committee for further report before taking the opinions of members.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Could not a long and important State document like this be typewritten?

The PRESIDENT—Sometime ago this matter came up with the report of the sub-committee, and we agreed to wait until the new Ordinance came out. The Medical Officer of Health, who was a member of the sub committee, did not quite agree with all the things in the report. I have asked Dr. Pearse to go into them, and he has reported that the whole Board should consider them. They are important, undoubtedly, and if we go into them we should go into them in committee.

Mr. HOOPER—I am rather in favour of what Mr. Lau Chu Pak says in his minute, that they should be referred back to the sub-committee to consider them. Then the Board can consider them with the sub-committee's report, and go into committee. It would be a very long task for all the members of the Board to discuss each detail of them now.

The PRESIDENT—As Mr. Fung Wa Chun is absent, I would ask Mr. Slade or Mr. Humphreys to take his place on the sub-committee.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—I was not on the previous committee.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I would suggest that Mr. Lau Chu Pak take Mr. Fung Wa Chun's place, and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Clark's.

The PRESIDENT—It would be best to balance the Chinese side, and have either Mr. Slade or Mr. Humphrey's on the committee.

Mr. SLADE—I am too busy just now to serve.

The PRESIDENT—Perhaps Mr. Humphreys will, and he knows a lot about it.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL did not understand the remark regarding the balancing of the Chinese side.

The PRESIDENT—We want to get it discussed by both sides.

AMENDMENT OF VARIOUS BYE-LAWS.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the amendment of various bye-laws.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—What about the bye-laws for the prevention of infectious diseases?

Have they been amended, or are they being amended as recommended by the sub-committee consisting of the Registrar-General, the Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Fung Wa Chun? The sub-committee's report was adopted by the Board while the new Act was being discussed.

The PRESIDENT—Re Mr. Lau Chu Pak's minute: these bye-laws are down on the agenda for consideration. They were never adopted by the Board, but their consideration was adjourned for the passing of the amending ordinance.

The PRESIDENT—We want the amending Ordinance to come out, and then we will print a new edition of all the bye-laws. According to one of the present bye-laws all people are not allowed to keep cats, and we want to permit all residents to keep cats.

Mr. HOOPER—referred to the bye-laws with regard to cemeteries, and wished to know whose duty it was at present, when an application was made for a grave in the Colonial Cemetery, to say in what portion of the cemetery the body was to be interred. This matter had not been satisfactory to his mind for some years. It used to be the duty of the Surveyor-General, and then it was changed by some authority—what, he did not know—to the Sanitary Board or the Medical Officer of Health. He thought a bye-law regarding the subject should be made, and therefore he would like the bye-laws before the meeting to stand over with the object of proposing a bye-law to that effect. In the meantime, he would like to be enlightened.

The PRESIDENT explained that such applications were usually matters of urgency, and it would probably be better for the Registrar-General or the Medical Officer of Health to be responsible.

Mr. HOOPER—There has been dissatisfaction alleged on previous occasions as to the portions of the cemetery in which people were interred. They thought they had the right to be interred in certain portions, and were informed that they had not because such portions were reserved for old residents. Just after this information had been issued, the wife of a very subordinate officer of that department died, and her body was allowed to be interred in the old quarter.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I would like to say with regard to that, that Mr. Hooper is quite right in saying that the matter of deciding in which section of the cemetery interments should take place is in the hands of the Director of Public Works. So far as I am aware that arrangement has never been altered, but during recent years reference has rarely ever been made as to where interments should take place. There were places set aside for ordinary interments, and no authority was required to bury people in those parts.

Mr. HOOPER—I would suggest that a small committee be appointed to go into the question.

A committee composed of Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, the Director of Public Works and the President is to consider the matter.

RINDERPEST AT KENNEDY TOWN.

The following letter from Mr. A. Gibson, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, was read:—Sir, I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that out of a lot of 51 cattle which arrived at the Kennedy Town cattle depôt from Kwangsi to-day (August 10th) for Fuk Lee, cattle dealer, one bullock was suffering from rinderpest, three others had abnormal temperatures, and the remainder appeared healthy. The affected bullock was in extremis, and was slaughtered. The post-mortem showed well marked indications of rinderpest. I have put the whole lot in the segregation sheds, and the bullocks showing temperatures in a small shed by themselves.

The VETERINARY SURGEON in reply to Mr. Hooper said that the only case which had come in had developed. Sixty cattle, which had not developed, had been slaughtered for food, and two cattle which came in sick had recovered and been killed.

Mr. HOOPER—Any claim for compensation?

Dr. GIBSON—No.

BAT RETURN.

The rat return for the week ending August 15th showed that out of a total of 139 rats killed, not one was found to be plague infected.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—This return should show how many rats are caught by the street committees, and how many by the rat catchers.

The PRESIDENT—It is impossible to say how many rats the street committee catch unless they label or mark them. The Registrar-General could inquire of the committees.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death rate of the whole Colony for the week ending August 1st was 34.2 against 36.3 for the previous week, and 27.9 for the corresponding week of last year.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held at the Board Room, on the 28th July 1908.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace, (Chairman), Huang Ts'an-chew, W. Kruse, S. Okuyama, W. Wilson, the Health Officer and C. Berkeley Mitchell, the Secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

RESIGNATION OF MR. GARDINER.

A letter was read from Mr. A. F. Gardiner, the Vice-chairman of the Council, resigning his seat owing to his approaching departure for England.

Mr. WALLACE:—I am sure we all regret that Mr. Gardiner has had to resign. He has been a member of the Council almost since its inception, and has always done all in his power to help his fellow members. I need hardly say that we all wish him a complete recovery of his health during his stay at home, and hope that in due course he may be again amongst us.

On the motion of Mr. WALLACE, seconded by Mr. WILSON, it was unanimously agreed to invite Mr. J. S. Fenwick to take the seat on the Council vacated by Mr. Gardiner; Mr. Wallace remarking that as Messrs. Boyd & Co. had always been represented on the Council he did not think there was any question as to whom they should ask to join now, and he had much pleasure in proposing that Mr. Fenwick be invited to become a Councillor.

BONUS TO THE SECRETARY.

Mr. WALLACE, in proposing a bonus to the Secretary, said:—Now that we are established in our airy and commodious new building I think it only right to say how much we are indebted to Mr. Mitchell for his constant and painstaking supervision while the work was in progress. He has practically done as much for us as an architect, and I have much pleasure in proposing that we vote him a bonus of say \$300 as a mark of our appreciation of his efforts.

Mr. WILSON, in seconding the motion, said that he thought the sum voted should have been considerably larger as Mr. Mitchell had saved the Council at least \$1,000 in architect's fees and probably more, and it was only the straitened condition of the Council's funds that precluded him from asking the members to vote a larger sum.

The vote was passed unanimously.

PIRATES AGAIN.

A trading junk was riding peacefully at anchor off Saikung on the night of the 6th instant. Dusk was just closing in when another junk ran alongside her and made fast. Before those on board the trader were aware of what had happened, eight pirates, armed with knives and revolvers, swarmed on board and had little difficulty in driving the terrified crew into the hold, no resistance being offered. When all were under hatches the pirates battened them down and proceeded to ransack the vessel. After transferring goods to the value of \$268.9 to their own craft they sailed away without releasing the crew of the trading junk. When all was quiet, however, the latter set to work, and after much exertion succeeded in forcing the hatch. But when they regained the deck the pirate craft was out of sight, so they promptly hauled up the anchor and set sail for Hongkong. On arrival here they reported the matter at the Water Police Station, and Detective-Sergeant Wilden took the case in hand. His investigations have led to the arrest of eight seamen, who were charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy yesterday with armed robbery. The hearing of the charge was adjourned.

SUGGESTED TANNING INDUSTRY
FOR HONGKONG.

The following correspondence has passed between Government and the Chamber of Commerce:

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 2nd June, 1908.

SIR.—With reference to my letter No. 9454/1907 of the 1st ultimo, I am directed to transmit for the consideration of your Committee the enclosed copy of a minute by His Excellency the Governor dated the 31st ultimo, and to inquire whether, in the opinion of your Committee, there is a possibility of developing the Singapore Market for lard as well as that of the Philippines, and whether it would be possible to establish in Hongkong a tanning industry for hogskins.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

Hon. Colonial Secretary.

I have recently noticed in a report by the Commercial Agent for New South Wales that the Straits Settlements imported for a period of nine months (the period under review) 46,863 piculs of lard valued at £100,183 of which 17,805 piculs was from Hongkong (value £39,165) and about the same quantity from China. The values therefore for a complete year would be about £134,577 of which Hongkong took £23,740. There would seem to be a possibility of developing the Singapore market as well as the Philippines.

In this connection also it might be possible to establish a tanning industry for hogskins; and the following notes taken from the "Indian Trade Journal" of April 23rd, 1908, may be of interest to the Chamber.

F. LUGARD.

Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 6th August.

SIR.—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 2nd June, 1908, inquiring whether or not there is a possibility of developing the Singapore market for lard, and also of establishing a tanning industry for hog skins in Hongkong.

From enquiries made by me from firms who were likely to be interested in the proposal, I find that the making of lard is solely carried on by Chinese, both here and at Canton, as is also the exportation of this product to countries which have large Chinese populations.

The best market for the Chinese exporters is apparently Singapore, and judging from the figures supplied by the Commercial Agent for New South Wales of the volume of trade in lard in the Straits Settlements there appears to be ample opportunity for the development of the export of locally made lard into that Colony.

It appears to me, however, that such development must lie in the hands of the Chinese exporters who, if they reduce their prices to compare favourably with those quoted for the Australian product, would naturally command a larger market, in fact it would seem to be a matter of price.

As regards the establishment of a tanning industry for pig skins, there seems very little probability of such meeting with success, as, in order to be financially successful, it appears necessary that the scheme should be established on a larger scale than seems to be possible at the moment in the present depressed condition of the Colony's trade.

There are, moreover, several difficulties to contend with such as, for instance, the difficulty of obtaining conveniently a sufficient number of pig skins for the reason that the skin is seldom sold apart from the meat, and I am led to understand that the skin is used by the Chinese as an article of food.

There are some Chinese, I believe, engaged in tanning pig skins, but it is done in a primitive way, and I have not been able to ascertain that tanned pig skins are used in South China to any large extent.

I have &c.,
E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.
Colonial Secretary.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

August, 17th

OFFICIAL MATTERS.

The Board of Punishment has cabled instructions to the local authorities that the custom of compelling litigants to kneel in the Courts has been abolished.

It is reported that Viceroy Chang has received a cablegram from Peking requesting him to divide the fees of all Prefectures and Magistracies of the Two Kwong Provinces pro-rata amongst the office holders.

The Board of Census has requested the Police Department here to organize the Police force according to the Peking Police regulations.

It is reported that ex Nam Hoi Magistrate Pai-King-Fuk, who was degraded and banished during Viceroy Shum's regime, has been pardoned and is likely to return to Kwang Tung.

THE CANTON WATER WORKS.

The inauguration of the Canton Water Works took place yesterday. His Excellency Viceroy Chang, the Tartar General, the Lieutenant Tartar-Generals, the Provincial Treasurer and Judge, the Salt Commissioner, several Taotais and many other officials and merchants were present, and most of the foreign Consuls and the leading foreign residents attended the ceremony. After refreshments H. E. the Viceroy made a short speech in which he remarked that Waterworks were first established in Western Countries. The advantage of having good water, which is one of the necessaries of life was very important, he said, especially in a large and thickly populated city like Canton.

He spoke of the dangers of well water and the supposed pure water which the wealthy class obtain from the White Cloud Mountains, which runs through graves. By drinking such water, he said, the people are liable to contract all sorts of diseases. Another advantage of a proper waterworks system was that fires could be more quickly put out, as very often hundreds of houses and valuable merchandise were destroyed in one fire. His Excellency went on to remark that formerly a barrier had existed between the officials and merchants and there was always a want of union. Now it was different; the officials proposed a project and the merchants seconded it and co-operated to carry it out. He congratulated the officials of the Waterworks upon having completed this enormous undertaking in so short a time (two years) and said that it took almost five years to complete the Shanghai Waterworks in the Chinese City which is hardly half the size of Canton City. His Excellency's speech was much applauded.

THE FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

The Bazaar Committee announced that they collected \$9,270.20 on the 15th instant, part of which are proceeds of the auction on that day, and on the 16th instant they collected \$2,874.85 credit sales. The auction continued yesterday. At about 3 a.m. yesterday the place caught fire. A soldier who was on night duty fell asleep and one of the lanterns that was burning dropped and set fire to the floor. Fortunately one of the members of the Committee on duty saw the flames, obtained assistance and put out the fire.

FLOWER BOATS.

It is reported that the Flower Boats at Tai Sha Tau will henceforth be abolished and replaced by restaurants on the land opposite their old site. Tourists visiting Canton will be greatly disappointed as it is one of the chief attractions here.

August, 18th.

THE FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

The Committee reported that on the 17th instant they collected \$3,170.80, part of it being proceeds of sales by auction and the remainder from credit sales. His Excellency Chang Pei Shih, Minister of Agriculture and Mines, donated \$1,000, at the Auction yesterday.

August 19th.

THE FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

The auction at the Bazaar closed at 6 p.m. yesterday. The Committee reported that they collected \$3,796.95, on the 18th instant being proceeds of sales by auction and outstanding accounts.

OFFICIAL MATTERS.

His Excellency Viceroy Chang has repeatedly cabled to the Central Government for permission to resign his position. It is reported that the Prime Minister, Chang Chi Tung, has recommended Governor Yuan Shu Fan to fill the vacancy stating that the latter official has a good knowledge of railway affairs and is also well versed in international law.

His Excellency Chang Chi Tung has telegraphed to Viceroy Chang to place on official record all the office holders of Prefectures and Magistracies who at the expiration of their tenure of office deliver up their accounts in good and proper order, as an encouragement to honesty.

Sometime ago Viceroy Chang received cable instructions from the Central Government to depute Taotai Wen Tsung Yao as special minister to Tibet. Wen Taotai has made all the necessary preparations for his journey but, owing to the Viceroy being unable to procure a suitable official to take up the vacancy, Wen Taotai may be detained here for sometime yet. In the meantime the Viceroy has wired to the Waiwupu for Mr. Yim to relieve Wen Taotai.

FIFTY YEARS' SERVICE.

Mr. J. H. May, who was promoted to outdoor Deputy Commissioner of Customs here sometime ago, is over seventy years of age. He joined the I. M. Customs on the 15th August 1858 and on the 15th instant saw the completion of 50 years' service. The Customs staff called on him on that day to offer their congratulations.

A PUBLIC NUISANCE.

The Police pinnaces of No. 6 River Police Station have been in the habit of blowing their whistles at midnight in front of the Shamian Band, thus causing great annoyance to the residents who at that time are asleep. When Kung Taotai was acting Director of the Police his attention was called to the matter and the nuisance ceased for sometime. Recently the police lannches have recommenced their little diversion and it is reported that the Commissioner of Customs has sent a complaint to the Police Taotai, Wong Ping Pit, and asked that the nuisance should be stopped. Wong Taotai replied that the officer in charge of No. 6 station stated that the whistle was blown by the launches to notify the police boats to change beat and that they were only acting in accordance with the regulations. In that case some change in the regulations is desirable.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

August 18th.

THE FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

As I predicted it would, the Bazaar promoted by local Chinese to raise funds for the relief of sufferers by the recent flood is proving a great success. On Sunday morning, the opening day, the Tay Siau ground was crowded with a brilliant throng of spectators. The sun shone brightly on an imposing scene, the pretty dresses of the ladies blending harmoniously with the bright military uniforms of army officers, while from numerous flagstaffs fluttered many flags in a gentle breeze. The Chairman of the Bazaar Committee, Mr. Chan, asked His Excellency the Acting Governor to open the Bazaar. His Excellency Senator Diego de la and His Lordship the Bishop both addressed the gathering, and each pulled aside one of the curtains which blocked the view to the interior of the matshed in which the stalls were arranged. Along the entrance to the matshed, on either side, two rows of neatly dressed school boys were drawn up, and these saluted those who entered. Within, the first object of attraction was a band of some forty young ladies, dressed in pretty garments of various colours. Their mission was to sell

flowers, and it proved a very successful one. Then the stall holders commandeered visitors, their persuasive power being highly successful. It is estimated that \$8,000 was the amount cleared on the opening day, an amount with which the committee of the Bazaar have every reason to be satisfied.

OUR NEW GOVERNOR.

To-day at 12.45 p.m. a volley from the Guia Fort announced the sighting of the "Rio Lima" with our new Governor, Senhor Alves Rocada, on board. This was the signal for action, and military and public poured into the Praia Grande from all directions. His Excellency, on landing, was received by the Acting Governor (Senhor Diego de Sá) His Lordship the Bishop, Dr. Vidal (the Chief Justice) and others. His Excellency was straightway conducted to the Leal Senado, where the investiture ceremony took place. Acting Governor Senhor Diego de Sá handed to His Excellency the "staff of power," and the President of the Leal Senado presented the key of the city, which the Governor returned, telling the President to keep it, as the key was in good hands. The new Governor then addressed the gathering and remarked that his first efforts would be to improve the harbour and the sanitary condition of the Colony. He had requested the Home Government to allow the Colony's revenue to be expended on improvements in the Colony, and Macao was the only Portuguese Colony which did not show a deficit in its revenue. His Excellency concluded his maiden speech by thanking the Government and the public for the grand reception tendered him, and said he would take the opportunity of publicly thanking the Governor of Hongkong for the kind way in which His Excellency had received him, and the particular attention he had paid him. It showed the good relations existing between the two Colonies—relations which, he hoped, would endure.

VASCO DA GAMA'S MONUMENT.

The unveiling of the monument to be erected in the Avenida Vasco da Gama to perpetuate the memory of one of Portugal's early navigators, will soon take place, as the monument is almost completed.

HONGKONG.

Mr. E. A. Hewett has been staying at Divonne-les-Bains in the South of France. Mr. Hewett hopes to be back in Hongkong next month.

We learn that Mr. J. H. Scott, the President of the London Branch of the China Association, intends coming out to China on a trip towards the end of the year.

Mr. J. Dyer Ball, chief interpreter at the Supreme Court of Hongkong, attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace on the 21st ult., and received the Imperial Service Order.

The Tung Wa Hospital sub-committee are inquiring into the losses suffered by the boating population in the recent typhoon. During Thursday and Friday last 43 claims were investigated, and there are still a large number to be considered.

There was a large attendance at the funeral of Mr. K. Bock, who was interred at the Happy Valley cemetery on August 18th. Deceased was connected with the firm of Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co. in the East for the last five years. Mr. Bock, who was only 27 years of age, died from heart failure, and leaves many friends in Hongkong and other Eastern ports who will regret to learn of his untimely end.

The new Commodore at Hongkong, Captain Herbert Lyon, at present in command of H.M.S. "Formidable," was midshipman on the "Charybdis" during the operations in the Lingie and Lukat Rivers, against Malays in the Straits of Malacca in 1874 and holds the Perak medal and clasp. As sub-lieutenant on the "Boadicea" he landed with the Naval Brigade during the Zulu War, and accompanied the Ekowe Relief Column. He was present at the Battle of Ginghlovo, 2nd April, 1879 and accompanied the Brigade to Port Durnford. He holds the Zulu medal. In 1907 he received the Cross of the Order of Naval and Military Merit from the King of Spain.

An extract of meteorological observations made at the local Observatories during the month of July shows that the average maximum temperature was 87 and the minimum 78.7 degrees. We had 22.265 inches of rain, and 227 hours of sunshine.

We learn from a correspondent in England that there has been some delay in the completion of the Queen's statue which is to have a place in the Royal Square, but this and the statue of the Princess of Wales will be ready for shipment before very long, and very likely they will be both shipped together.

The General Managers of the Peak Tramways Company Limited inform us that two seats in the tram will in future be reserved for His Excellency the Governor's use, and that anyone occupying these seats must vacate them when His Excellency the Governor is travelling. A notice will be put up in the cars to this effect.

Mr. Edgar G. Barrett, Manager of Messrs. Dodwell & Co. Ltd, who was elected an Associate of the Society of Accountants and Auditors in 1904, after passing the necessary examination, has, we note, just been elected a Fellow of the Society which entitles him to append F. S. A. A. to his name.

A remarkable story is being related over in Kowloon. A little boy, about four years old, appeared to have had something wrong with his nose, and last week it became so bad that his mother took him to the doctor. The medical man discovered some foreign substance in the nose, but he could not dislodge it at the first attempt and the boy had to make several visits to the surgery. At last the doctor succeeded and to his surprise brought down a boot button. It had been in the little fellow's nose for two years.

A case of more than ordinary importance was commenced in the Supreme Court on Aug. 13 before the Chief Justice. Its origin is traced to the outbreak of the Boxer troubles in Tientsin in 1900 when the branch office of the Imperial Bank of China, with other places of business, had to suspend operations. Its manager died before the office could be reopened and the bank allege that examination of the books showed that he was liable to the bank to the extent of over \$30,000, and this sum they are seeking to recover from his brother who is said to have given security for the due performance of his duties on the part of the deceased.

As a married woman was walking along Queen's Road West with her amah on Wednesday afternoon she felt a tug at her coiffure, and turned round in time to see a man running away. Putting her hand to her head, she found that an ear pick was missing, so ordered the amah to take off her boots and pursue the man. The amah gave chase as far as Jervois Street, where the thief was captured by a district watchman, and handed over to the police. He was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy yesterday, but denied the charge, remarking that he was reading a paper when the watchman caught him. His Worship was satisfied with the evidence, however, and sentenced the defendant to three months' imprisonment with hard labour and 24 strokes of the birch, twelve to start with, and twelve on completion of his sentence.

ARRIVAL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MACAO.

The new Governor of Macao, Senhor Alves Rocada, accompanied by his wife, arrived here on August 17th by the French mail steamer "Australien," on which he had embarked at Marseilles. His Excellency was met by Captain Hooper, A.D.C. to Sir Frederick Lugard, bearing a letter from the Governor complimenting him on his appointment and conveying his good wishes. Captain Santos, on behalf of the Acting Governor of Macao, was one of the first on board, and accompanying him was the Portuguese Consul, Mr. J. J. Leiris, who greeted the new Governor on behalf of the Portuguese community. The party were afterwards conducted round the city.

His Excellency Senhor Alves Rocada, Macao's new Governor, left Hongkong by the Portuguese gunboat "Rio Lima" on Aug. 18. As the little boat was leaving the harbour a salute was fired from H.M.S. "Tamar".

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.:-

RICE.

HONGKONG, 22nd August.—The prices are declining, market being dull.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.80	to	\$4.85
" Round, Good quality ..	5.00	to	5.06
" Long	5.10	to	5.15
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	4.60	to	4.65
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	5.00	to	5.06
" White, "	5.20	to	5.25
" Fine Cargo	5.40	to	5.50

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, August 6th.—The movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian
Stocks on the 6th August, 1908	1214	2,091	976	1,111
Aug. 6th Imports per G. Apcar ..	—	325	100	—
" 14th	Footscray ..	—	350	80
" 15th	Yunnan ..	—	200	—
" 17th	Hunshang ..	—	80	—
" 19th	Malta ..	323	200	81
		1,537	3,166	1,176
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	17	155	50	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight ..	185	484	180	45
Estimated Stocks this day ..	1,233	2,527	946	1,167

Bengal.—As the consumption has not been very active prices have remained unchanged with a small demand only. We quote Patna at \$1070 and Benares at \$995.

Malwa.—As deliveries have been on a satisfactory scale and as supplies till the end of the year will be light prices have advanced considerably and the market has opened for the drug of the s.s. "Malta" at \$930/40 for new and \$1000/1010 for 2/3 years old opium.

HONGKONG, August 20th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$930/950	per picoul
Malwa Old	\$960/980	do.
Malwa Older	\$990/1010	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1030/1060	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$880	do.
Patna New	\$1075	per chest.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$1020	do.
Benares Old	\$1000	do.

AMOY, 13th August.—The import from 1st August to 7th was: Patna, nil; Benares, 53; Persian, 3.

COAL.

HONGKONG, August 21st.—The arrivals since the 9th Aug. amounted to 23,353 tons of Japanese, 5,663 Cardiff, and 2,850 Hongay. The coal expected is 26,400 tons of Japan coal. There have been no sales of any importance in the interval and the market is dull. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$— to \$—	ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$12.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Miiki Lump	\$10.50 to \$11.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$8.00 to \$9.50	ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$8.00	ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$8.75 to \$9.00	ex-ship, sellers.
Labuan Lump	\$9.25	ex-ship, sellers.

YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 21st August, states:—Quietness has been the prevailing feature of the past fortnight, and only a small business is reported. Rates, however, have been well maintained, and in special cases of favourite spinnings a small appreciation in values is observable. Best spinnings are in short supply, and one or two favourite chocks would be taken at an advance on present prices; medium and common form the bulk of present stock, and quotations are more or less irregular. The demand has been general.

and almost all counts have been dealt in, but No. 10s and 20s have, as usual, attracted most attention and comprise nearly three-fourths of the total settlements. For the last few days business is at a complete standstill, but the market generally may be said to close firm with a tendency to higher prices. Bombay is reported strong. Sales of the fortnight aggregate 3,407 bales, arrivals amount to 8,801 bales, unsold stock estimated at 14,000 and sold but uncleared bales in second hands at 31,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—No business is reported. Japanese Yarn:—There is no change in the continued quietness of these threads. Raw Cotton:—Very little demand has been experienced and receipts are very small. There is no stock of China Cotton on the market, and out of 135 bales of superfine Bengals on offer only 35 bales have changed hands at \$24, prices showing a decline of 50 cents per picul. Quotations are \$21 to \$24 Indian and \$23 to \$25 Chinese. Exchange on India has steadily declined since last mail and closes weak to-day at Rs. 133 $\frac{1}{4}$ for T/T and Rs. 138 $\frac{1}{4}$ for Post. On Shanghai 75 and on Japan 88 $\frac{1}{4}$. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the week ended the 8th instant, viz.:—Indian:—Business effected has been very small owing to the firmness of holders consequent on decreasing stocks and the recent trouble with the millhands in Bombay. Total sales about 1,250 bales at hardening prices, with an estimated stock of 32,000 bales. Japanese:—Holders firm and holding out for higher prices. Market strong, stocks small. Total sales about 1,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 90 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ for No. 16s and Tls. 101 to 104 $\frac{1}{2}$ for No. 20. Local:—In good enquiry, but supplies from first hands are not available.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated, Shanghai, 14th August, states:—We have had a dragging, almost lifeless market during the interval, with absolutely nothing to enliven it in any shape or way. Exchange has been a disappointment to remitters, and, in spite of the alleged cheaper and more extensive production of gold, silver continues to depreciate. At the close, too, comes the news that the bottom has fallen out of the "spot" cotton market and prices have come down with a run. There is no special advice as to the cause of this sudden movement, which was bound to come sooner or later, the spot price in Liverpool having been for some time past altogether out of parity with the quotations for "futures." The effect on this market must be to postpone orders for the Spring until much later in the season, when it will be more possible to tell what the actual outturn of the cotton crop in the States will be, as upon that chiefly must depend the future course of the Manchester market. Meanwhile a hand to mouth business is being done here, and goods in the hands of the solvent dealers are being worked off gradually, but, alas, that is only a small proportion compared to what importers have in their books against natives who signed contracts, in many cases under fictitious names, and now cannot be found! There is some slight indication that the general situation in the country is improving. The crops all round promise to be quite satisfactory, and in some cases are likely to make a record, especially is that so with Rice in the Ningpo district, if only it is harvested when ripe, and not allowed to stand and rot, as is so often the case, waiting for a propitious day to begin the harvest, quite irrespective of the condition of the crop. It is time superstitious nonsense was abolished, if it is the ambition of the powers that be in this country to come into line with their neighbours and the rest of the civilised world. Early pickings of Cotton are expected to arrive here by the end of this month from the Ningpo district. The Yangtze is subsiding and much of the disaster that was feared has been averted; however, it is too early yet to be sure, as last year the Country was flooded much later than this, but fortunately not until all the crops had been harvested. Hankow is showing more disposition to buy, a fair quantity of light weight American Drills having been secured during the interval from second hand holders for that market. Tientsin is also said to be showing more disposition to treat for goods, and the Newchwang dealers are once more in evidence, encouraged by the improvement in exchange on this, although it is still 24% discount. However, they have started in buying American goods, upwards of 1,500 bales we understand already having been settled. We are not through the summer yet, and that possibly accounts for a great deal of the apathy shown with regard to other markets.

There is not much news so far as we can make out concerning the Manchester market, and no one here would care to place orders with such a wide margin existing between the "spot" and "future" prices of Cotton. Manufacturers in fact, as we understand it, are not at all anxious to book forward orders at present. The Liverpool market for American "spot" cotton, after showing considerable firmness during the interval, suddenly collapsed, Middling being quoted yesterday six pence, while "futures" were 5.67d. for this month, but 4.98d. for November to December. Egyptian remains unchanged at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The New York quotations received yesterday were 9.24 cents for October and 8.98 cents for December "option," September coming to-day 9.80 cent. The market there for domestics appears to be unchanged, Manufacturers not trying to force business. A fairly active enquiry continues for Indian Yarn, which native holders seem inclined to meet on more favourable terms than importers from their own stock, the recent further decline in exchange causing them to be more reserved. The decline in Osaka is having a weaker effect here, although counteracted by the drop in exchange. Local Spinnings are fairly steady and some of the Mills have made advantageous purchases of new Seed Cotton for forward delivery.

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 22nd August, 1908.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	piece	\$1.25 to \$1.80
7 lbs.		2.35 to 2.55
8.4 lbs.		3.09 to 4.20
10 lbs.		4.40 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..		2.75 to 4.50
58/60 ..		4.50 to 6.00
64/66 ..		6.00 to 8.50
Fine ..		8.00 to 9.25
Book-folds ..		5.50 to 6.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..		6.04 to 1.80
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..		2.00 to 2.80
7 lbs. ..		2.80 to 3.19
6 lbs. ..		Mexicans ..
7 lbs. ..		12.75 to 8.90
8 to 8.4 oz. ..		8.00 to 4.25
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 lbs. ..		4.75 to 5.50

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 lbs. piece ..	\$1.85 to \$4.50
Brocades—Dyed	yard 0.10 to 0.15
Chinese—Assorted	0.08 to 0.30
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.27 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 0.55
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 0.27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk doz.	0.45 to 2.00

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chocks ..	yard \$0.55 to \$2.00
German,	0.45 to 0.70
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths ..	1.50 to 8.50
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece ..	7.75 to 9.50
Assorted	7.85 to 8.60
Camlets—Assorted	19.50 to 30.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches ..	14.00 to 19.50
Assorted	

RAW COTTON—

Bombay	picul \$20.00 to \$21.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca	24.50 to 25.00
Shanghai and Japanese	26.00 to 27.00
Tungchow and Ningpo	26.00 to 27.00
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	—
Australian	8.80
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz ..	38.00
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	38.00
Elliots, 16/28 oz ..	38.00
Tin	87.00
Tin-Plates	box 8.20
Steel	cwt. case —

MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver	picul 158.00 to 157.00
Window Glass	box 4.25
Keroene Oil	case —
Saltpetre, No. 1	picul \$11.00 to 11.80
Do. No. 2	10.70 to 10.80
Do. No. 3	9.80 to 10.10

EXPORTS:—

TEA.

HANKOW, Aug. 6th.—Business reported since the 30th ult. is as under:—

1908. 1907.
+Chests. +Chests

Settlements ... 11,142 8,842

Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ... 35,900 —

Consisting of the following Teas:—

+Chests. per picul

Ningchows 810 at Tls. 16.25 at —

Oopacks 289 " 12.00 " —

Oonams 4,618 " 18.00 " 10.25

Oofaas 3,871 " 16.00 " 12.75

Seangtams 766 " 10.25 " 10.00

Iehangs 988 " 80.50 " —

The following are Statistics at date compared with the corresponding statement of last season, viz., 31st July, 1907:—

1908. 1907.
HANKOW TEA +Chests. +Chests.

Settlements ... 515,602 461,586

Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ... 30,000 —

Stock ... 61,482 22,541

Arrivals ... 807,094 494,127

1908. 1907.
KIUKIANG TEA. +Chests. +Chests.

Settlements ... 178,530 181,120

Shipments to Shanghai on Native account ... 5,000 —

Stock ... 17,682 15,579

Arrivals ... 201,212 196,699

Comparative Quotations per picul are as under:—

1908. 1907.

Ningchows Tls. 15.50 at 100.00 Tls. 16.60 at 100.00

Khemuns .. 21.00 " 18.50 " 74.00

Hohows .. 19.00 " 24.50 " —

Kutoans .. 22.50 " 27.00 " 21.50 " 25.50

Wenchows .. 19.50 " 21.00 " —

Oopacks .. 11.95 " 26.00 " 12.50 " 27.00

Oonams .. 9.25 " 28.00 " 11.75 " 28.00

Oonfaas .. 12.75 " 36.00 " 13.00 " 35.75

Seangtams .. 9.50 " 18.50 " 11.75 " 17.80

Iehangs .. 27.00 " 65.00 " 25.00 " 69.00

The export to 1st instant, as per Customs Returns stands thus:

Hankow, Kiukiang.

Season 1908-1909... lbs. 10,899,897 ... lbs. 4,817,286

" 1907-1908 ... 8,187,787 ... 5,128,649

" 1906-1907 ... 11,566,617 ... 5,167,903

1908/9 1907/8 1906/7

Via Shanghai, lbs. lbs. lbs.

To Great Britain 2,061,905 2,047,081 2,884,748

" U. S. & Canada ... 5,169,980 8,587,279 2,057,807

" Continent 2,553,169 2,011,660 1,753,720

" Russia via North.. 81,757 8,820 28,949

" Russia in Europe, 564,099 3,218,511 6,442,237

" Shanghai 4,014,664 1,278,688 3,525,888

Direct, 1908,

U. S. 472,576 lbs.

Gr. Britain 3,788,659 "

HANKOW, August 5th.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 30.00
Do. seconds	27.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	—
Buffalo Horns, average 8 lbs, each	7.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	8.75
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	7.75
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute	3.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	10.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	9.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.60
Animal Tallow	12.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	15.50
Gallnuts, plum do.	17.90
Tobacco, Tingchow	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	—
Black Bristles, Kifings	—
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	—
Turmeric	—
Sesamum Seed	5.75
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	8.80
Tea Oil	—

Per P. & O. str. *Marmora*, sailed on 8th August For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—8 packages silk piece goods. For Havre:—10 cases tea. For Valencia:—10 bales raw silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—664 bales raw silk. For London:—462 bales waste silk, 80 bales raw silk, 1,978 packages tea, 20 packages gum, 7 cases missionary exhibits, 26 packages private effects, 50 bales feathers. For Marseilles:—380 bales raw silk, 3 cases birds' feathers, 150 cases tea. For Trieste:—50 bales waste silk, and 4 cases birds' feathers.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 21st August, 1908.—Our market still continues dull, and apart from a little more activity in one or two stocks in which a fair business has been transacted, there is but little change or feature of interest to report. Bar-Silver is quoted in London at 2.41 and sterling T.T. at 1/9 $\frac{1}{4}$. The rate on Shanghai has advanced to 75 T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have ruled steady with fair sales at \$770, closing with probable buyers at the rate. London has again advanced and is now quoted at £80. The enquiry for Nationals at \$51 continues, but there are no sellers or business reported.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at \$755 and \$750, closing with a few shares on the market at the latter rate. North Chinas are in strong demand at Tls. 78, and there are buyers also of Yangtzees at \$155. Cantons and China Traders have not been dealt in during the interval and remain as last quoted.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been booked at \$315 and close with further sellers at the rate. Chinas can be placed at \$92 $\frac{1}{2}$.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have been booked at \$27 $\frac{1}{2}$, and close with probable buyers at the rate. Indos have declined to \$35 and £20 for the preferred and deferred combined. Star Ferries (old) are still procurable at \$25, but the new issue has sold, and continues in demand at \$15. Shell Transports can still be placed at 43/8, and the preferred shares at £10.

REFINERIES.—There is no business to report, and quotations are unchanged.

MINING.—Raubs have been booked at \$7, \$7.10 and \$7 $\frac{1}{2}$, closing steady at the latter rate. Charbonnages are unchanged with buyers at \$580.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue on offer at \$103. Sales of Kowloon Wharves have been effected at \$45, and there are buyers at the rate. Shanghai Docks have advanced to Tls. 84, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves to Tls. 167 $\frac{1}{2}$, the latter with sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$94, and West Points at \$46. Kowloon Lands are procurable at \$37, and Humphreys' Estates at \$10. Hongkong Hotels are steady at \$80 with probable

buyers. Shanghai Lands are without change at Tls. 119 in the north, and without local business.

COTTON MILLS.—There is no business to report, and quotations are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—A fair business has been transacted in Green Island Cements at \$10 $\frac{1}{2}$, and in China Providents at \$9 $\frac{1}{2}$, the latter closing in further request. Dairy Farms have again been sold, and are wanted at \$19 $\frac{1}{2}$. Electrics are obtainable at \$16 $\frac{1}{2}$, and China Light and Powers at \$6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Peak Trams are quiet with probable sellers of the old at \$14 and the new issue at \$2. A small lot of Union Water Boats is procurable at \$10 $\frac{1}{2}$. Powell, Ltd., have declined to \$4, but at this there are buyers. South China Morning Posts are procurable to a small extent at \$23.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$770, sales
National B. of China...	26	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	\$7
China-Borneo Co....	\$12	\$10 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$64, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales & buy.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewe.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 64
Hongkong	\$10	\$11, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 242 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$19 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$45, sales & buy.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$103, sellers
New Amoy Dock...	\$61	\$9 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 84, x.d.
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 167 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement ...	\$10	\$10 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$20	\$185
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$80
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$235
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$10	\$24
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$230, sellers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$92, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$315, sales & sel.
North China.....	25	Tls. 78, buyers
Union	\$100	\$750, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$155, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$94, sales
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 119
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$46, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$580, buyers
Raubs.....	18/10	\$7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$14
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$180, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$22
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	43/8, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, sellers
Do. New.....	\$5	\$15, sales & buy.
South China M. Post...	\$25	\$23
Steam Laundry Co ...	\$5	\$5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M & Co...	\$10	\$10
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$4, sales
Watkins.....	\$10	\$3
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wiesmann Ld.	\$100	\$150, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$18, buyers
Do. Founders.....	\$10	\$250, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$104, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

18th August, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$78 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
National of China...	26	\$61, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tls. 175, sellers
T125		
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$790, sellers
North-China	45	Tls. 78, buyers
Yangtze Assocn. ...	\$80	\$167 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$80	\$181 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
China Fire.....	\$80	\$102, buyers
Shipping:—		
Indo - China { pref.	£10	Tls. 29 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
def.		
Shell Trans. { ord.	£1	Tls. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
& Trading { pref.	10	£25.0, sellers
S'hai Tug & { ord.		
Lighter ... { pref.	T50	£39.10, sellers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 47, buyers
Koobien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 50 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 88, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$105, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 165, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$47 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 93 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
China Refining.....	\$100	\$182 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian ...	£1	£8, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 15 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 119, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104, sellers
Weihaiwei.....	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 100 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Cotton:—		
Ewo.....	T50	Tls. 84, buyers
International	T75	Tls. 87, sellers
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 242 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D...	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 113 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Major Brothers.....	T50	Tls. 51 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales
Shanghai Ice.....	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill ...	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 50, sellers
Green Is. Cement....	\$10	\$104, sellers
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat.....	Gs. 100	Tls. 562 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 97, sellers
S'hai Waterworks...	£20	Tls. 395, ex div.
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	£85, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$35, sellers
Kalumpong Rubber	50	Tls. 56 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	£9.17.6. sellers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz.....	£20	\$19 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
A. Llewellyn	£60	\$43, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Central Ordinary ..	\$15	\$12, sellers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 18th August, 1908, states:—Business on the whole this week has been quiet, but we have to report a very considerable decline in the price of Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares. Other stocks have generally maintained their level. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/4. Banks.—No business reported. Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—No business reported. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd. Our market closed last week at the nominal rates of Tls. 180 for cash and Tls. 182 for September. A great many shares, however, were still on offer. On the 8th some demand set in and these prices were obtainable for September, October, and December, but on the 10th the market became very weak and has fallen steadily since to Tls. 172½ for cash, September, and December, closing with sellers. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—Kaipings have been dealt in at Tls. 154. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. Some transactions have taken place at Tls. 119 for cash. Anglo-French Lands remain at Tls. 100½. Industrial.—Ewos. A fair number of shares have changed hands at Tls. 65½ for October. Shanghai Gas Co. are wanted at Tls. 118½. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkata. We have to report a rise in this stock from rates ruling last week of Tls. 552½ for cash and Tls. 560 for December to Tls. 562½ for cash and Tls. 570 for September. There are a few sellers at the close. Shanghai Sumatras have been dealt in at Tls. 99 for cash. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz Ltd. Small lots have been dealt in at \$19½. Weeks & Co., Ltd., remain at \$21½. Shanghai Horse Bazaars changed hands at Tls. 42½. Shanghai Electric and Asbestos Co. A transaction is reported at \$21. Shanghai Mutual Telephones, there are sales at Tls. 59½. Loans and Debentures.—A sale of Shanghai Waterworks six per cent. Debentures is quoted at Tls. 108.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, August 21st.

ON LONDON.—		
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½	
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½	
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½	
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½	
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½	
ON PARIS.—		
Bank Bills, on demand	222½	
Credits 4 months' sight	227	
ON GERMANY.—		
On demand	180½	
ON NEW YORK.—		
Bank Bills, on demand	43	
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½	
ON BOMBAY.—		
Telegraphic Transfer	133½	
Bank, on demand	133½	
ON CALCUTTA.—		
Telegraphic Transfer	133½	
Bank on demand	133½	
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank, at sight	75
Private, 30 days' sight	75½	
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand	86½
ON MANILA.—	On demand	87
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand	76
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand	106
ON HAIPHONG.—	On demand	10 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	On demand	9½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	On demand	86½
STERLING, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.10	
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$58.3½	
BAR SILVER per oz	23½	

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

per cent.

Chinese	20 cents pieces ..	\$7.46	discount.
	10 " " ..	8.30	"
Hongkong	20 " " ..	7.20	"
"	10 " " ..	7.30	"

FREIGHTS.

Hankow, 5th Aug.—Per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG 21st August.—The freight market continues dull with only a limited demand for tonnage. From Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents last and no further demand; to Philippines, 24 cents has been paid for a small parcel of 22,000 piculs; to North Coast Java, 22 cents has been paid and more tonnage wanted; to Singapore, 11 cents; Japan, no demand. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 20 cents and 24 cents has been paid. From Iloilo to Yangtze, several charters put through, particulars as below. From Bangkok to this, 15/25 cents berth terms, but no inquiry for outside boats. Newchwang to Canton, no fixtures reported, the local bean market being very dull. Coal freight are weak. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton last; to Canton, \$1.90. Haiphong to Canton, \$1.60 last. The following are the settlements:—

Reidar—Norwegian steamer, 2,276 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Tingsang—British steamer, 1,045 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$1.85 per ton.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Moji to Amoy, \$1.80 per ton.

Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Labuan to Saigon, \$1.75 per ton.

Standard—Norwegian steamer, 894 tons, Quinhon to Manila (cattle), \$5,000 lump sum.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Iloilo to Ningpo and Chinkiang (30,000), 25 cents per picul.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Iloilo to Chinkiang, and Shanghai, \$6,250 lump sum.

Michael Jebsen—German steamer, 951 tons, 3 ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Quinta—German steamer, 987 tons, 3 ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Iloilo (22,000), 24 cents per picul.

Standard—Norwegian steamer, 824 tons, Saigon to Singapore, \$3,650 S.C. lump sum.

An Indo-China S. Nav. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to 1/2 ports North Coast Java, 22/24 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. Nav. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to 1/2 ports North Coast Java, 22/24 cents per picul.

Shinchiku Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,238 tons, Saigon to 1 port North Coast Java (2,000), 21 cents per picul.

Phoumpen—British steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents per picul.

Taishan—British steamer, 1,122 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents per picul.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August—ARRIVALS.

13, Gilbert, French str., from K. C. Wan.

14, Ambria, German str., from Hamburg.

14, Cyclop, British str., from Kobe.

14, Fooksang, British str., from Calcutta.

14, Onsang, British str., from Moji.

14, Simongan, Dutch str., from Samarang.

14, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.

14, Taming, British str., from Manila.

15, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.

15, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.

15, Helene, German str., from Hoihow.

15, Hinsang, British str., from Hongay.

15, Quarta, German str., from Pulo Pukum.

15, Yunnan, French str., from Singapore.

16, Albenga, German str., from Shanghai.

16, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Yokohama.

16, Bujun Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.

16, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.

16, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.

16, Jason, British str., from Singapore.

16, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.

16, Shosho Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.

16, Vorwaerts, Austrian str., from Trieste.

16, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.

16, Zillah, British str., from Christmas Id.

17, Australien, French str., from Marseilles.

17, Benlawers, British str., from Singapore.

17, Claverburn, British str., from Cardiff.

17, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.

17, Fooshing, British str., from Wuhu.

17, Germania, German str., from Singapore.

17, Glamorganshire, Brit. str., from London.

17, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.

17, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.

17, Kumeric, British str., from Tacoma.

17, Kumsang, British str., from Tientsin.

17, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

17, Macduff, British str., from London.

17, Ragnar, Norwegian str., from Rajang.

17, Taishan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

17, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.

- 18, Choising, German str., from Bangkok.
- 18, Eclipse, British ship, from New York.
- 18, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 18, Paklat, German str., from Swatow.
- 18, Spir, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
- 19, Glenlochy, British str., from Singapore.
- 19, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 19, Inaba Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 19, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 19, Korea, Am. str., from San Francisco.
- 19, Malta, British str., from Bombay.
- 19, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 19, Swanley, British str., from Chinawtau.
- 19, Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
- 20, Braemar, British str., from Samarang.
- 20, Chibli, British str., from Haiphong.

August—DEPARTURES.

- 14, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
- 14, Fausang, British str., for Saigon.
- 14, Huichow, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 14, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 14, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Palma, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Standard, German str., for Saigon.
- 15, Cathay, Danish str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Chowfa, German str., for Swatow.
- 15, E. of India, British str., for Vancouver.
- 15, Jeerio, British str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.
- 15, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 15, M'chew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 15, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 15, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
- 16, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 16, Gilbert, Fr. str., for Kwang Chow Wan.
- 16, Kwangping, Chinese str., for Chingwanao.
- 16, Mandasan M., Jap. str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 16, Quinta, German str., for Moji.
- 17, Australien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Zillah, British str., for Kobe.
- 18, Aki Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 18, Ambria, German str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Armand Behic, Fr. str., for Europe, &c.
- 18, Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
- 18, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 18, Jason, British str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Siam, Austrian str., for Sourabaya.
- 18, Singan, British str., for Haiphong.
- 18, Tenyo Maru, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
- 18, Vandalia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Yatshing, British str., for Swatow.
- 18, Yuunan, French str., for Yokohama.
- 19, Benlawers, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 19, Bujun Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 19, Glamorganshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 19, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
- 19, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 19, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 19, Kiangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
- 19, Merapi, Dutch str., for Singapore.
- 19, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Shantung, German str., for Bangkok.
- 19, Shosho Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 19, Simongan, Dutch str., for Saigon.
- 19, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 19, Tjiliwong, Dutch str., for Samarang.
- 19, Vorwaerts, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Cyclop, British str., for Singapore.
- 20, Glenlochy, British str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Malta, British str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Petocaburi, German str., for Swatow.
- 20, Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Malta, for Hongkong, from London, Capt. J. Baddeley; from Brindisi, Mr J. Gubbay; from Bombay, Messrs. E. Cawasjee & K. Sasaki; from Colombo, Mr J. Stewart; from Singapore, Mr W. Blumenberg; for Shanghai, from London, Messrs. G. Anderson and E. H. Pond; from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs J. Boyce-Kup, Mr and Mrs Gowdy, and Mr A. Bellamy; from Fremantle, Mr and Mrs Paterson; from Singapore, Mr A. H. Green; for Nagasaki, from Bombay, Mr and Mrs Hathayama; for Yokohama, from Brindisi, Messrs. G. Rogers and G. Cobb.

Printed and published by BRITANNIA AUGUSTUS HALE, for the Concerned, at 10, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong, London Office 181, Fleet Street, E.C.